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Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 8-17 August 2017
Agenda item 20
Adoption of the report of the Conference

Draft report

Rapporteur: Peder **Gammeltoft** (Denmark)

Organization of the work of the Conference

A. Terms of reference

1. The Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names was held at United Nations Headquarters from 8 to 17 August 2017, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2016/259.

B. Opening of the Conference

2. The Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat opened the Conference.

C. Attendance

3. The Conference was attended by __ participants. The list of participants is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/uncsgn.htm.

D. Election of the President

4. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 8 August 2017, the Conference elected, by acclamation, as President of the Conference, Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands), who gave a welcoming address.

5. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

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E. Organizational matters

1. Adoption of the rules of procedure

6. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 8 August 2017, the Conference adopted its provisional rules of procedure.[1]

2. Adoption of the agenda

7. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the Conference adopted its provisional agenda (E/CONF.105/1). The agenda as adopted was as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President of the Conference.
3. Organizational matters:
   (a) Adoption of the rules of procedure;
   (b) Adoption of the agenda;
   (c) Election of officers other than the President;
   (d) Organization of work;
   (e) Credentials of representatives to the Conference.
4. Reflection on the past, present and future: the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
5. Reports by governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Tenth Conference (for distribution only).
6. Reports on the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, its divisions, working groups and task teams since the Tenth Conference.
7. National and international meetings, conferences, symposiums, publicity and publications.
8. Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, including the economic and social benefits.
9. National standardization:
   (a) Field collection of names;
   (b) Office treatment of names;
   (c) Treatment of names in multilingual areas;
   (d) Administrative structure of national names authorities, legislation, policies and procedures;
   (e) Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors.
10. Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity (including indigenous, minority and regional language names).

[1] The rules of procedure, as contained in document E/CONF.105/2, are available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/uncsgn.htm.

11. Exonyms.

12. Toponymic data files and gazetteers:

    (a) Content requirements and standards;

    (b) Data management and interoperability;

    (c) Data services, applications and products (for example, gazetteers and web services).

13. Terminology in the standardization of geographical names.

14. Writing systems and pronunciation:

    (a) Romanization;

    (b) Conversion into non-Roman writing systems;

    (c) Writing of names in unwritten languages;

    (d) Pronunciation.

15. Country names.

16. Toponymic education.

17. Features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation:

    (a) Features common to two or more nations;

    (b) Bilateral/multilateral agreements.

18. Arrangements for the Twelfth Conference.

19. Adoption of resolutions of the Conference.

20. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

21. Closing of the Conference.

3. Election of officers other than the President [[H2]]

8. At the same meeting, the Conference elected the following officers:

Vice-Presidents:
Brahim Atoui (Algeria)
Andreas Hadjiraftis (Cyprus)

Rapporteur:
Peder Gammeltoft (Denmark), assisted by Wendy Shaw (New Zealand)

Editor-in-Chief:
Trent Palmer (United States of America), assisted by Eman Orieby (Egypt)

4. Organization of work

9. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 8 August 2017, the Conference approved its proposed organization of work (E/CONF.105/INF/2/Rev.2, in English only) and established four technical committees. The Conference also elected the officers and allocated agenda items to the technical committees as follows:

Technical Committee I: National standardization (agenda item 9 and sub-items (a)-(e)) and Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity (including indigenous minority and regional language names (agenda item 10)

Chair:
Annette Torensjö (Sweden)

Vice-Chair:
Sungjae Choo (Republic of Korea)

Rapporteur:
Leila Mattfolk (Sweden), assisted by Gerhard Rampl (Austria)

Technical Committee II: Toponymic data files and gazetteers (agenda item 12 and sub-items (a)-(c))

Chair:
Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (Germany)

Vice-Chair:
Rizka Windiastuti (Indonesia)

Rapporteur:
Allison Dollimore (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Technical Committee III: Exonyms (agenda item 11); Writing systems and pronunciation (agenda item 14 and sub-items (a)-(d)); and Country names (agenda item 15)

Chair:
Peter Jordan (Austria)

Vice-Chair:
Kohei Watanabe (Japan)

Rapporteur:
Catherine Cheetham (United Kingdom)

Technical Committee IV: Terminology in the standardization of geographical names (agenda item 13); Toponymic education (agenda item 16); and Features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation (agenda item 17 and sub items (a) and (b))

Chair:
Leo Dillon (United States)

Vice-Chair:
Naima Friha (Tunisia)

Rapporteur:
Susan Birtles (Australia)

10. Agenda items 1 to 8 and 18 to 21 were considered in plenary meetings.

5. Credentials of representatives to the Conference

11. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the Conference agreed, in accordance with rule 3 of the rules of procedure, that the Credentials Committee would be composed of the President, the two Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur, supported by a representative of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social

Affairs. It also decided that the Credentials Committee would examine the credentials of representatives and report to the plenary without delay.

12. At its ___th plenary meeting, on ___ August 2017, the Credentials Committee reported that the credentials of the representatives had been found to be in order.

F. Documentation

13. The list of documents before the Conference is posted on the website of the Eleventh Conference.[2]

[2] Available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/uncsgn.htm.